conditions laid down by KFW. There has been no occasion of misused of loan assistance by NLC.

SHRI BIR BHADRA PRATAP SINGH: Sir, I have been writing to the Minister and he has been responding to me time and again. Two notorious concerns—MAN and WMI both have been disqualified even by the consultants M/s. Rheinbraun and KFW who have been financing us. The Miniser knows that bucketwheel excavators which were supplied by MAN, one of them broke down and the project is worth of Rs. 21 crores. Now there may be a dispute about other [illegible]s. So far as the claim by NLC from MAN about Rs. 1.59 crores for rehabilitation was concerned, there is no dispute. May I know from the Minister in spite of this claim by NLC and MAN, why did you give them further Rs. 8 crores with 10 per cent advance? May I also know from the Minister whether you deducted the rehabilitation claim which was already demanded by NLC because of being called human failure? I want to know whether you have deducted this about. If not, why have you further entered into an agreement with that firm which was found faulting on that account?

SHRI VASANT SATHE: This is what happens when some parties link up some previous things with a future arrangement. Sir, with KFW we have an arrangement and all that they have done is to give us assistance for setting up a project. Now, in previous projects something wrong had happened with regard to bucketwheel excavators or some damage has taken places. The recovery is the separate aspect. It is not from KFW. The question relates to loan from KFW. I am sorry to say that the hon. Member is still obsessed with the earlier question that he has in his mind.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Second supplementary.

SHRI BIR BHADRA PRATAP SINGH: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am definite about my mind with regard to WMI. May I draw the attention of the hon. Minister to Q. No. 869 dt. 30-4-1987 (*Interruptions*) about WMI? The Indian collaborator—MAN has not supplied cranes to Paradip port and Kandla port. These facts were brought to the notice of major ports and also poor performance by WMI. You know that MAN operates in India through WMI. They are failing in all the Ministries. They are failing in your Ministry also. Not only this. There is a further Rs. 100 crore project. In spite of all these failings, still these projects are being given to them. Why do you deal with them at all when the firm is failing on all grounds? The technical consultants have declared them unfit for the job. Yet, why do you give this Rs. 100 crore project to them?

SHRI VASANT SATHE: Sir, do you want me to answer this question?

MR. CHAIRMAN: I want you to answer only this part of the question, that the supplies have been failing and the performance of this company has not been satisfactory; why do you still continue to give the contracts to that company?

SHRI VASANT SATHE: As far as KFW is concerned, as far as KFW assistance is concerned, the condition is that orders have to be placed on German firms, German parties. And now two German parties have come. We have a consultant and we take their assistance. Whatever they ultimately approve we select that. As far as equipment that we have secured in Neyveli is concerned—I am not concerned with other areas—we find that it is working satisfactorily and we will keep the interests of Neyveli and of the country always uppermost. I do not want to take sides of any particular party in this matter.

*254. [*The questioner* (*Shri S. S. Ahluwalia*) *was absent. For answer* vide *cols.* 41-42 infra]

Banning of dangerous fire works

*255. SHRI K. G. MAHESWARAPPA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that studies conducted over the past four years

show that thousands of people get burnt at Diwali by fireworks especially by 'anars';

(b) whether Government are also aware that studies conducted by an international expert Dr. Lawrence Berger have revealed that efforts by the fireworks industry to educate the children about the dangers of fireworks are sometimes dangerously counter-productive;

(c) whether it is a fact that in most western countries dangerous fireworks have been banned to avoid such incidents;

(d) if so, what steps Government have taken to collect firework-injury-data from hospitals in the country; and

(e) what steps if any have been taken by Government to ban the production of 'anars' and further reduce the quantity of explosive powder allowed in manufacture of firework especially 'bombs'?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) to (e) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

Government have seen the study carried out by Prof. Dinesh Mohan and three others on the patients reporting to two Hospitals i.e., Safdarjung and Lok Nayak Jai Praksh Narain in Delhi over a 2 day period around Diwali in 1983 to determine the epidemiology of fire works burns sustained by the patients which was published by the Centre for Bio-Medical Engineering, Indian Institute of Technology, New Delhi, in September, 1984.

Government have also seen the article by Prof. Dinesh Mohan of the IIT in the 'Times of India' dated 21-11-86 in which there is a reference to the studies conducted by Dr. Lawrence Berger on the results of the efforts to educate children on the dangers involved in the use of fireworks.

There are varying restrictions on the use of fireworks in different countries.

Government do not collect separately the fire work injury data from hospitals in the country.

Government do not have under their consideration any proposal to ban the manufacture of 'Anars' There is no proposal to reduce the quantity of Explosives powder allowed in fireworks items including atom bombs at present. Government are taking precautionary measures by trying to educate the public and by trying to enforce the law to the best Possible extent.

SHRI K. G. MAHESWARAPPA: My question was that thousands of people are getting burnt during Diwali and the Government in its answer simply says, "We have seen reports of Dr. Dinesh Mohan and Dr. Lawrence Berger". I have also asked whether Government has collected fire-work-injury-data from hospitals in the country. No specific answer has come. Is there any difficulty in collecting the data from all over the country regarding fire-work injuries from all hospitals?

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have a very difficult task, Mr. Minister.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: But not impossible.

SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM: I require notice.

SHRI K. G. MAHESWARAPPA: Has Government any plans to give guidelines regarding sale of fire-works and to ban particularly the *anar*—the so called atom bombs—to mitigate hardship and damage to life and property?

SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM: Government has no plans. But a case is pending in the Supreme Court and the Supreme Court has constituted a committee and that committee has suggested some ways and means to reduce fire accidents.

*256. [*The questioner (Dr. Ratnakar Pandey) was absent. For answer,* vide *cols.* 42-43 infra.]